

# Unhappy Dresses Women Will Wear

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## WIDE CHOICE IN GOWNS OFFERED, MANY UNCOMFORTABLE

WELL, we are settled as far as the fashions go. The designers have done their work; how is the time for us to do our work. The public insists that it has the harder job, or at least that is the conclusion one reaches after hearing the discussions of countless women over the purchase of a single garment.

It is not easy to buy clothes in war time, when the slogan of judicious spending echoes and reechoes from every point of the compass. Even poverty has rarely impressed upon us with such drastic emphasis the need to spend wisely and well.

There has been a story current for two decades among the French designers that the American women are not helpful to them, except through their money power, for the reason that they do not approach the choosing and purchasing of clothes with that watchful discrimination displayed by the French woman. They buy a gown because it is in fashion or because it is the kind of thing their men folk like, or because they have seen it on some excessively smart woman at a restaurant.

No French woman buys for any of these reasons. She does not take the purchasing of clothes lightly. It is not a casual thing to be sandwiched in between a committee meeting and a card party.

She makes an appointment, she arrives on time, she is clothed with as many of these in authority at the dressmaking house as her purse and prestige command. She accepts several fittings and is not impatient, rebellious or cross while they occur. She investigates under sunlight and electric light the quality of the material she has chosen, she debates, discusses, tries out and finally agrees upon a design that is peculiarly suited to her figure, her environment and her social opportunities.

The American woman's quick comment is that she wouldn't take so much time for anything as trivial as a dress. She argues that it is a waste of time. She orders half a dozen gowns while the French woman orders one, and usually she finds that five out of the six chosen in that haphazard manner are wrong. She quarrels with the dressmaker, she hates the clothes, she gives them away to her poor relations or she sells them to a theatrical house.

Now, in the name of all clever adjustment of finance, who is the better buyer? She who regards the expenditure of \$100 as something to be seriously considered and works a happy result, or she who considers the expenditure of a thousand dollars of so little importance that she frets because the designer asks her to stand still and try out different colors?

If some doctrine could only be burned into a woman's consciousness which would compel her to spend money wisely! She is handling funds, and usually they are the funds of another party, and she has no right to toss them into the coffers of the dressmaker, the grocer, the interior decorator or the butcher.

### Now It Is Woman's Turn.

Since the first of July the French and American designers have worked under conditions that have never before arisen, and under the pressure of an anxiety and nervousness that it was impossible to assume.

America was trying to stand on her own feet in designing, while she held on with both hands to France, to whom she must always look for steadiness and support and to whose dressmakers she must never cease to be grateful, or she will prove herself unworthy of the name that France has given to this country in the last year. The dye situation was puzzling and insecure. The labor deficit caused by the draft threatened shipwreck to many industries in women's apparel. In France the sewing girls went to munition factories, and the colorists were dead or in the trenches.

Mlle. Bertha, as the French call the



One piece frock of blue serge fastened in diagonal line across front of bodice and in a straight line down side of skirt. It opens at the knee to show an underskirt of black satin. The collar is of satin, the belt of patent leather.

big German gun, was dropping explosives uncomfortably near the great designers' houses on the Place Vendôme and the Rue de la Paix. At the house of Premet, on the Place Vendôme, as an example, Mlle. Bertha sent an enormous explosive at the moment that the mannequins were parading in the new gowns before a handful of American buyers. Glass smashed around the place, buildings shook, ambulances rattled, but no one moved, and the young mannequins did not even swerve from that accentuated French walk which is part and parcel of their trade.

It was under these conditions that women's apparel for autumn and winter was created. The public that thinks it has a more difficult time in choosing gowns, simply does not know what went on behind the scenes.

### Skirt Struggle Is Ended.

That women appreciate the struggle is shown by the tremendous business done in clothes since the first day of September, for buyers of a new class have arisen in this country and in Europe, and have taken the places of the rich people of other days and crowd their orders upon a limited number of workers.

It is probable that America has won out in the length of the skirt. The

### Buttons Down the Back and Diagonal Fastenings in Vogue Again—Long, Narrow Skirts Win—Coat Suits With Narrow Shoulders in Demand

there is no denying that both jackets and skirts are longer than they have been for several seasons.

The foremost designers of jackets play all sorts of tricks upon the loom, cutting it in points like a jester's costume and blocking it out in battlements as if it were a medieval tower.

One well known dressmaker accentuates this jester effect in frocks as well as jackets. He cuts long panels at the sides which hang from hip to hem of skirt; he places long panels on the sleeves that leave the arm at the elbow and drop to the knees, and he cuts the bodice into a panel at the middle of the back, letting it drop below the knees. All of these panels end in sharp points. They are not placed simultaneously on one suit or frock, but are used in various methods over the majority of street clothes.

There are some short jackets. Doucet and Cheruit, and many of their American followers have adopted a square hip length jacket that does not

give long lines, does not promote the established silhouette, but achieves an air and prestige of its own, apart from the regular sign of fashions.

Doucet made one especially striking costume that has been taken up by smart women. It is a deep tobacco brown cloth. The jacket is in box shape, and on nearly the whole surface, except for about four inches, are laid flat pieces of seal skin. Of course an excellent trick like this was taken up by every one who demanded something new in coat suits.

The desire of the United States Government to promote Alaska seal skin as the most fashionable fur for American women bore agreeable results, and by some persuasion the French designers acceded to the wish that the American peltry should rule. It is true that Russian squirrel steadily advances, but it is also true that most of these animals grow in the woods of America.

No woman who is interested in the

subject of her coat suit, which is the usual first choice of the autumn, should be ignorant of the diagonal fastening which has leaped into fame as a substitute for the conventional opening down the front.

A great many tailors, some of whom are among the best in this country, do not cater to this novelty, but the women like it. One guesses that its inspiration was in the Sam Browne belt, and women believe that the bias line across the bust is attractive. Buttons are sometimes used down this line, and often it is braided or run with tiny strands of tarnished gold braid, if the material is velvet or velveteen.

It is not possible to say that the other novelty in the method of fastening the jacket, which is in a straight line down the spine, is a new thing, but it is possible to say that it is a pleasing thing. It has spread like a prairie fire.

These are jackets that are modeled on straight cuirass bodices, built of



On the left, medieval gray gown trimmed with squirrel and silver net studded with rhinestones. The cuirass blouse is considered one of the best features of formal evening frocks. On the right, a dinner gown of taupe colored velvet, with skirt and short train cut in one piece. It has long, tight sleeves. The wrist line and the square décolletage are edged with ostrich tips.



War time frock for street and theatre. The bodice is of turquoise blue velvet trimmed with jet. The skirt is of heavy black silk jersey. The hat has a crown of fur, a brim of black lace, a head band of jet.

deeply colored broadcloth or velours, such as Burgundy or bottle green, and these end at the hips, are cut in battlements at the hem and fasten down the line of the spine with round bone buttons.

There is another ingenious jacket which has no fastening at all. It is cut off squarely at the hips and goes over a fitted cuirass blouse of deep colored angora wool. This blouse is longer than the coat, it clings to the hips and it gives the jacket the appearance of a hastily donned sack. Yet it is so well put together and the colors are so admirably composed that the wearer who wears it cannot fail to achieve the distinction of being different from her neighbor.

### One Piece Frocks Differ.

The struggle between the long and the short skirt having been settled in favor of the former, which is the American fashion, the new struggle is between the medieval chemise frock and the tight draped one.

Every house shows both designs and if women have sufficient money to get more than the one necessary costume they can buy both styles and see which is more suitable to their figure.

Despite the preponderance of the medieval frock, the shadow of a coming event falls athwart it. There is something significant in the new gown, which again was designed in America. It differs entirely from the medieval silhouette, and the skirt is long, it is draped upward, it hobbles the ankles and it has a slim bodice that would be a basque if it showed any disposition to recognize the waistline.

There is a feeling among those who sense things without being able to argue them out in logical sequence that the medieval frock is about to be superseded. There is no sign of this in the Paris exhibitions, but here and there women are asking that their clothes be more fitted to the figure, even when they are cut in one straight line.

We grow slimmer as Mr. Hoover asks us to pull in our belts tighter. We appear to be attenuated, even though we may be well nourished. We do not propose to hide this slimmness under a bushel of material, and it may be that history will repeat itself from the days of the Directorate, when it was smart and patriotic to appear cut to the bone.

At this hour the frock that you will buy is cut in one piece. It may have a draped skirt, a straight skirt or a tunic skirt. Only the extremists will wear this startling new American pulchritude, but it is the herald of things to come.

One thing is quite true: The careless, bunglesome line which was brought about through the fashion for the chemise frock will be eliminated this season. The mediocrity cut their cloth to the lines of their figures, and there is almost a disposition toward the old princess lines in certain of the frocks made by great houses.

The French gowns show a straighter line than do the American, but they are not bunglesome at the waist because they are made of thin material



Short fur wrap lined with brilliant Persian silk. The loose cape back is held to the figure by a broad belt. The hat is of brown plush trimmed with a fringe of monkey fur and faced with black velvet.

## ENTICING NOVELTIES IN SPECIALTY SHOPS

A NOVELTY is a white china jar for holding various sorts of sauces and other concoctions. This jar is made with a tight fitting cover so that it may be properly placed in the refrigerator. Printed on the outside of the jar is the recipe for its contents. For instance, the jar for holding mayonnaise in the refrigerator would have the recipe for that sauce printed on its outside. These jars are not expensive.

Jars to hold all sorts of kitchen and pantry supplies of food are made of glass, with the name of the contents lettered in blue. Of course the chief advantage of a glass jar for holding, say, tea or salt, is that you can see at any time just how your supplies are diminishing.

Expensive but tempting is a new travelling combination, consisting of a high grade leather suit case, well lined, and a small toilet case to match it. The toilet set is thus kept outside the suitcase in another little case, but the two cases match each other in every detail; one is simply much larger than the other. These sets are made up in various leathers, fitted with ivory, gold or silver toilet articles and lined with various silks.

One of the shops that specialize in all sorts of unusual bits of table service is showing charming fruit plates of mauve or amber glass, with larger dishes to hold the fruit supply to match.

One of the new fireless cookers shows a three piece compartment. That is, one of the compartments takes three small saucepans that fit together in triangular fashion to form a big circular saucepan. Thus three sorts of food may be cooked at once in one compartment on one hot plate.

It is high time to be thinking about some sort of snuff. It is quite possible

to make a snuff at home, and if you buy one of the snuff foundations that may be had for prices ranging upward from \$1.50 you are pretty sure to get good results. These forms are all lined and padded, ready for the outer covering of velvet or one of the lovely pile fabrics that are to be much used this winter.

Already the shops show a good many varieties of woollen gloves. These are to be worn by many smartly dressed women in place of heavy kid gloves of the winter. They are in the spirit of the times, both in the effort to conserve leather of all sorts for soldiers' belts and boots and puttees and gloves and in their relation with the activity of womanhood. Some of the gloves cost as little as \$1 a pair and they go on up in price, according to make and material. Some of them are bound with leather at the wrists. Some are buttoned or snapped and others are made gauntlet fashion. Doubtless the gauntlet is better for really cold weather wear, as it is warmer.

It is possible to buy hooks and eyes sewed to tapes that may be stitched along the placket or opening where they are to be used. Snap fasteners may also be bought in this way and so may buttons and buttonholes. Of course the buttonholes are machine made, but then when you use them they are under a flap and do not show, and they may often be utilized to save a great deal of time and energy for plain sewing.

For cold weather there are carriage or motor stockings, to be slipped over the foot and leg when one is dressed for the evening. There is an opening for the heel of the slipper and a sole, like that of a bedroom slipper. These carriage stockings come in colors and in white and have huge pompons on the toes. They are really admirable for getting about in cold evenings.

If you like candles there is really

little excuse for not having all sorts in your house. For the shops offer candles of every color under the sun. There was a time when within our memory when the colors for candles were limited. White candles we all had. And for birthday there were pink candles and at Christmas we had red candles—sometimes. Then there were olive colored bayberry candles. And that was about all. Later on there were yellow candles, and then old gold and brown candles, and now there are blue and mauve and green candles too. And then there are candles combining several colors, sometimes, although usually these are not so effective. Really the most effective candles are the hand dipped ones.

One thing to make the setting of the dining room table easier is a folding tray cart. It consists of a folding rack on wheels and it holds two big enamelled trays. On this set of trays everything from the pantry for the table may be set and then wheeled easily into the dining room. It costs \$10.

A set of breakfast china may be bought for \$5, in any one of the light shades—green, gray, yellow, blue, lavender or pink. Of course it should be chosen to fit in with the furnishings of the room wherein it is to be used. It consists of a teapot, a coffee pot, a covered jug for hot milk, a cream and a sugar dish, covered muffin dish, a plate, an egg cup, a bread and butter plate, a cup and saucer and an egg cup.

The rose is in for a decided vogue. And one of the ways it is very effectively used is in the form of tiny silk roses fastened on flat lace on underwear and negligees. These roses are made of that softest of satin, in blue and pink, and are the daintiest things imaginable.

Photograph frames of white ivory compound, for the dressing table, are sold with enamelled service stars or flags at the top. These come in all sizes and the price varies with the size.

Charming screens to place on the

### BABY'S TUB.

THERE are many convenient tubs for babies. One is a rubber tub that fastens on the rim of the big tub. This makes it unnecessary for the mother or nurse to lift the baby when it contains water. There is a folding bathtub of rubber sewing on a wooden frame that costs about \$5. This too is convenient. It is light and easy to handle.

### Hair Under Arms DeMiracle

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